

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An endoscope comprising:

an elongated flexible inserting portion; [[and]]

an operating portion which is mounted [[at]] on the proximal end side of the inserting portion and ~~includes~~ which has a grip portion capable of being gripped by an operator; [[,]]

an objective optical system which is mounted to the distal end side of the inserting portion and which can transmit an optical image of a subject into the inserting portion;

image guiding fibers which can transmit the optical image incident from the distal end side via the objective system to the proximal end side and which is inserted into the inserting portion so that the proximal end side extends in the operation portion from the inserting portion;

an optical image output portion which constitutes the proximal end side of the image guiding fibers and which outputs the optical image transmitted from the distal end side;

an image pick-up unit having an image pick-up device for picking up the optical image transmitted from the optical image output portion; and

a plate frame provided in the operating portion for suppressing a deforming of the operating portion, the plate frame having a notch portion to mount the image pick-up unit at a position at which the optical image transmitted by the optical output portion can be picked up in the operating portion.

~~wherein the operating portion has therein a plate frame and the plate frame has a notch portion to mount an image pick-up unit.~~

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2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) An endoscope according to Claim 1, wherein the image pick-up unit is mounted substantially in parallel with the shape of the operating portion in the longitudinal direction thereof.

4. (Original) An endoscope according to Claim 1, wherein the image pick-up unit is fixed to the plate frame via a mounting member.

5. (Currently Amended) An endoscope according to Claim [[2]] 1, further comprising:

an image pick-up ~~device~~ unit holding ~~unit~~ portion which holds the image pick-up ~~device~~ unit;

an optical system holding portion which holds the ~~image forming objective~~ optical system;

a fitting portion which fits the optical system holding portion and the image pick-up ~~device~~ unit holding portion while advancing and returning them so that the image pick-up ~~device~~ unit can pick up the optical image outputted from the ~~image forming objective~~ optical system; and

a waterproof structure portion mounted to the fitting portion.

6. (Original) An endoscope comprising:

~~a long~~ an elongated flexible inserting portion; and

an operating portion which is mounted on the proximal end side of the inserting portion and which has a grip portion capable of being gripped by an operator,

the endoscope further comprising:

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an electric device outputting predetermined signals;  
an internal structure mounted in the operating portion, which is inserted in the grip portion from the proximal end side thereof to the distal end side;  
a notch portion mounted to the internal structure; and  
electric device mounting means which is mounted to the internal structure and mounts the electric device ~~to~~ within the notch portion.

7. (Currently Amended) An endoscope comprising:

~~a long~~ an elongated flexible inserting portion;  
a grip portion which is mounted on the proximal end side of the inserting portion and which can be gripped by an operator;  
an objective optical system which is mounted to ~~[[a]]~~ the distal end side ~~portion~~ of the inserting portion and which can transmit an optical image of a subject into the inserting portion;  
image guiding fibers which can transmit the optical image incident from the distal end side via the objective optical system~~[[,]]~~ to the proximal end side and which is inserted to the inserting portion so that the proximal end side extends in the grip portion from the inserting portion;  
an optical image output portion which constitutes the proximal end side of the image guiding fibers and which outputs the optical image transmitted from the distal end side;  
~~[[and]]~~  
an image pick-up unit which is provided in the grip portion and is optically connected to the optical image output portion and which has an image pick-up device capable of picking ~~can pick up~~ the optical image transmitted from the optical image output portion,

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wherein the optical axis of the optical image outputted to the image pick-up unit from the optical image output portion is deviated from the central axis of a portion at which the image guiding fibers are extended in the grip portion.

8. (Original) An endoscope according to Claim 7, further comprising:  
adjusting and fixing means which can adjust the bending amount of the image guiding fibers and which fixes the image pick-up unit.

9. (New) An endoscope according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
an attaching member for fixing the image pick-up unit to the plate frame; and  
a screw for adjusting the position of the image pick-up unit, the screw being adjustable from a circumferential direction different from the direction of the attaching member with respect to the image pick-up unit.

10. (New) An endoscope according to Claim 7, further comprising:  
an attaching member for fixing the image pick-up unit to the plate frame; and  
a screw for adjusting the position of the image pick-up unit, the screw being adjustable from a circumferential direction different from the direction of the attaching member with respect to the image pick-up unit.

/Sanjay Cattungal/

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